

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2021 AT 9:30AM
CONFERENCE CALL**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Deborah Cook, Guadalupe Gamboa, and James Mohr.

Staff: Cheryl Strobert, Deputy Director; Matt Kernutt, Assistant Attorney General; Laura Lindstrand, Policy Analyst; Selene Garcia, Customer Service Specialist 2; and Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

OPENING AND WELCOME

Chair Cook chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30A.M.

MEETING MINUTES

The February 25, 2021 Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Gamboa motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mohr seconded the motion.

CASE CLOSURES

The following cases were pulled prior to the meeting:

Barton, Lisa v. Bakala State Farm
Halls, Tiffany v. C-Tran

Commissioner Gamboa motioned to approve the cases for closure. Commissioner Mohr seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Policy Analyst Laura Lindstrand provided additional updates regarding bills impacting the agency. All non-fiscal bills must be through and pass by the Legislative Committee by March 26, 2021.

Senate Bill 5027, concerning closed captioning on televisions in places of public accommodation, passed both the Senate and House Committee. It is currently pending with the Rules Committee.

House Bill 1076 allows whistleblowers to bring actions on behalf of the state for violations of workplace protections. Though it will mainly impact Labor & Industries, the bill does reference RCW 49.60. It also has passed the Senate and House Committee.

Senate Bill 5313 is concerning health insurance discrimination. The bill requires insurance plans to cover gender affirming treatment. The bill has passed the Senate and is currently pending in the House.

COMMISSIONER REPORTING

Commissioner Gamboa attended a meeting with the Coalition to End Sexual Harassment for farmworker women. They gave a progress report for the budget request to fund their training.

Commissioner Mohr is working with the Gonzaga Institute to organize the International Conference on Hate Studies that will happen in November. He is working on the Report Hate form that encourages people to report hate crimes and hate incidents that happen in Spokane County.

Chair Cook recommended developing a statement in response to the recent Hate Crimes and racial issues to post on the agency website. Commissioners were in support of this task, and Commissioner Mohr volunteered to begin drafting the statement.

AAG UPDATE

Assistant Attorney General Sharon James will be returning as the agency's lead AAG starting July 1, 2021.

Commissioner Gamboa wanted to congratulate the Attorney General's Office for the settlement against Great Columbia Berry Farms LLC. He referenced an article regarding the Attorney General's Office filing a lawsuit which asserted that a manager had raped a woman and sexually harassed other female workers. Great Columbia Berry Farms LLC will have to pay \$350,000 to the victims and also adhere to stringent policy changes and training.

2021 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

April 22, 2021:	Via Conference Call
May 27, 2021:	Via Conference Call
June 24, 2021:	Via Conference Call
July 22, 2021:	Via Conference Call
August 26, 2021:	Via Conference Call

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:51A.M.

Respectfully submitted by,
Deborah Gonzales